Please amend the claims as follows (this listing replaces all prior listings):1 – 28. (cancelled)

29. (previously presented) A method for collecting traffic information comprising:

enabling a subset of an available set of probe vehicles to provide traffic related data;

receiving traffic related data from the enabled subset of probe vehicles;

updating a traffic database using the received traffic related data, including updating speed information associated with a plurality of road segments in a road network; and

planning a route through the road network from a starting to a destination location using the speed information associated with the road segments.

30. (cancelled)

31. (previously presented) The method of claim 29 further comprising determining a part of the traffic database to target for updating, and wherein enabling the subset of probe vehicles includes enabling probe vehicles according to the part of the database that is targeted.

32. (previously presented) The method of claim 31 wherein the determined part of the database corresponds to a geographic area and enabling probe vehicles includes enabling vehicles according to a likelihood that they are in the geographic area.

33. (currently amended) A method for providing traffic related information to a user comprising:

at an in-vehicle system, accepting from the user a specification of a path made up of one or more road segments in a road network;

transmitting the specification from the in-vehicle system to a server system;

receiving traffic data related to road segments in the road network, in which the traffic data are derived from traffic related data received from fewer than all of an available set of probe vehicles, the subset of probe vehicles being enabled by the server system to provide the traffic related data; and

if the received traffic data indicates an exceptional traffic condition on the specified path, notifying the user of the traffic condition.

34. (cancelled)

35. (original) The method of claim 33 wherein accepting the specification of the path includes accepting the specification over a communication network.

36. (original) The method of claim 33 wherein receiving traffic data includes receiving traffic data from a plurality of probe vehicles.

37. (original) The method of claim 33 wherein notifying the user includes providing an alternative path to the specified path that avoids the exceptional traffic condition.

38. (currently amended) A method of planning a route and providing traffic related information to a user, comprising:

planning a route through a road network from a starting location to a destination location;

at a server, enabling fewer than all of an available set of probe vehicles on the route to provide traffic related data;

monitoring traffic condition along the route by receiving traffic related data from the subset of enabled vehicles on the route; and

if the received traffic data indicates an exceptional traffic condition on the planned route, notifying the user of the traffic condition.

39. (previously presented) The method of claim 38, further comprising planning an updated route to the destination location taking into account of the exceptional traffic condition.

40. (Cancelled)

41. (previously presented) The method of claim 40, wherein enabling probe vehicles includes enabling vehicles according to a likelihood that they are on the planned route.

42. (previously presented) The method of claim 29 in which enabling a subset of an available set of probe vehicles to provide traffic related data comprises polling the subset of vehicles to receive logged traffic data.

43. (previously presented) The method of claim 42 in which polling the subset of vehicles comprises polling vehicles for which planned routes have recently been provided and are expected to have logged traffic related data for road segments on those routes.

44. (previously presented) The method of claim 29 in which enabling a subset of an available set of probe vehicles comprises broadcasting messages to the subset of vehicles.

45. (previously presented) The method of claim 29 in which enabling a subset of an available set of probe vehicles to provide traffic related data comprises providing instructions to the vehicles on when communicate with a server system to provide traffic related data.

46. (previously presented) The method of claim 45 in which providing instructions to the vehicles comprises providing planned routes to the vehicle accompanied by the instructions.

47. (previously presented) The method of claim 29 in which enabling a subset of an available set of probe vehicles to provide traffic related data comprises requesting the vehicles for logged traffic data when the vehicles communicates with a server system to request route planning service.

48. (previously presented) The method of claim 29 in which enabling a subset of an available set of probe vehicles to provide traffic related data comprises providing planned routes to vehicles, the planned routes including data related to an expected traffic condition, and the vehicles report traffic related data when the actual traffic condition deviates from the expected traffic condition.

49. (new) A method of planning a route and providing traffic related information to a user, comprising:

planning a route through a road network from a starting location to a destination location;

enabling a subset of an available set of probe vehicles to provide traffic related data, includes enabling vehicles according to a likelihood that they are on the planned route;

monitoring traffic condition along the route by receiving traffic related data from the enabled vehicles on the route; and

if the received traffic data indicates an exceptional traffic condition on the planned route, notifying the user of the traffic condition.

50. (new) The method of claim 49, further comprising planning an updated route to the destination location taking into account of the exceptional traffic condition.